

ment of the Revenue Act.

day that the Police had received a tip-off that a large

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MEXICO
Narcotics

MEXICO

HEROIN SHIPMENT SEIZED, TRAFFICKERS CAPTURED

Ring Operations Described

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 10 Mar 84 Sec B p 8

[Text] An operation involving 120 million pesos worth of heroin was foiled by Federal Judicial Police agents who captured two of the main ringleaders of an international gang, although the man who was going to purchase the drugs managed to escape with the money.

A total of 250 grams of heroin was seized from the drug traffickers Juan Carranza Rivas, aged 38, and Jose Luis Martinez Jasso, aged 26.

The capture took place at 1800 hours last Thursday at the corner of Madero and Reynosa, while they were in a late model Rambler with Texas license plates EUZ-913.

Despite the fact that the area had been cordoned off by Comdr Rogelio Hirachi Coutino and group chief Alejandro Saldivar, a third drug trafficker fled in a pick-up truck, and was identified only as "David."

Narcotics agents in Laredo, Texas, cooperated in the operation to destroy the major drug trafficking clan, since "David" is presumed to be a resident of that Texas town.

Carranza Rivas and Martinez Jasso did not put up any resistance to the federal police; the deployment of men armed with submachine guns intimidated them, and they agreed to surrender.

In the questioning, they confessed that the heroin was Mexican and that the "laboratories" for which they had been working for some time were located in Durango.

A chemist named Oscar Dominguez, a resident of that state, was identified as the main ringleader of the international drug trafficking gang.

They also said that they had contacts in San Antonio, Houston, Chicago and other large cities in the United States.

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Federal agents are working on the capture of other leading members of the ring. Also, in Durango, the federal authorities in that state reported the arrests of some individuals, but their names could not be obtained.

Group chief Vicente Saldivar stated that Juan Carranza Rivas had confessed, and that he has already served sentences for drug trafficking and another one for robbery.

As for Jose Luis Martinez Jasso, he too had some unsettled accounts. It was said that this individual was the one whom the judicial police agents had been watching.

The comment was made that the capture was due to a tip, but Comdr Rogelio Hirachi Coutino claimed that it was the result of an investigation which they had been working on for several weeks.

Traffickers Sent to Court

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 13 Mar 84 Sec A p 9

[Text] The Second Agency of the Public Ministry will put the presumed drug traffickers Juan Carranza Rivas, aged 34, and Jose Luis Martinez Jasso, aged 26, at the disposal of the federal judge within the next 48 hours, after the laboratory tests on the heroin conducted by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic with the drugs seized last Thursday have been submitted.

Meanwhile, the Federal Judicial Police are continuing the investigation to find the whereabouts of the brains of this major international drug trafficking gang.

It was claimed that they already had an important clue and the complete identification of the individual named "David," who fled from the corner formed by Madero and Reynosa Streets, when he was about to carry out the operation with the 250 grams of heroin.

The federal prosecutor, Jose I. Salinas Lozano, said that those in custody, Carranza Rivas and Martinez Jasso, confirmed their statements made before this social representative with what they had said to the Federal Judicial Police after their capture.

The text of their statements is being kept concealed, because they gave names of individuals implicated in the drug traffic.

As for their remand to the district's penal court, prosecutor Salinas Lozano commented that he expected the Attorney General's Office to submit the results from the laboratory today.

He added that five grams of the confiscated heroin had been sent to ascertain the quality of the drugs and to continue with the procedures in this case.

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